

## — NEWS —

- Coast Guard B-Day ..... p2
- EO Notes ..... p2
- 9-Month Deployment ... p3
- Taking Your Photo ..... p3
- New Guantanamo Chief Named ..... p3
- Civilian Reductions ..... p5
- New NAVSO Cdr ..... p7
- Warrior-Poet ..... p8

## SECTIONS

- Feedback Info ..... p2
- After Hours ..... p4
- Around the Americas ..... p6



**USCG Auxiliary Cmdr. Richard High demonstrates the capabilities of the Mobile Communication Rapid Response Team vehicle.**

## Suriname School open

**Spc. Manda Walters**

PARAMARIBO, Suriname—New Horizons project partners participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony recently at the Lagere Technische School IV, officially opening the building for use at the school.

New Horizons 2011 is a partnership and cooperative humanitarian exercise between the Suriname government and U.S. Southern Command, with the goal of training U.S. troops while helping the people of Suriname.

**...SCHOOL page 3**

# This Training Has the Juice



Arthur McQueen

**Officer Steven Williams, US Army Garrison-Miami, falls to his knees and is helped to the floor by Physical Security Inspector Jose Velazquez (right) and Officer Leobaldo Gertz (left) after receiving a jolt from the TASER, which can deliver up to 50,000 volts from more than 20 feet away. Medical personnel were on hand during all live training.**

**Arthur McQueen**  
USAG-Miami PAO

With a distinctive buzz, snap and electrical sound, accompanied by a groan, two probes embedded themselves in the back of Officer Leobaldo Gertz.

Instantly his face wrenched out of a calm stare into a grimace of pain. While his body twitched uncontrollably, his friends lowered him gently to a mat on the floor. Brief seconds later, the electricity stopped and he caught his breath laying on the soft blue mat.

“Whew,” the 54-year-old said shortly afterwards. “That was intense.”

Welcome to the TASER, the newest tool for Directorate of Emergency Services security officers to use protecting the

**...TASER page 8**

# Coast Guard Turns 221

Congratulations to the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard on the 221st anniversary of their service's founding!

From its origins as the Revenue Cutter Service in the Eighteenth Century, the U.S. Coast Guard has assumed a wide range of missions, executing every one of them with characteristic professionalism and skill. As one of the five U.S. Armed Forces, the Coast Guard has fought alongside the Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force throughout our nation's history.

Within the U.S. Southern Command Area of Responsibility, U.S. Coast Guard cutters, aircraft, and training teams are on patrol and conducting engagement events

daily. The Coast Guard's unique mix of law enforcement and military capabilities make it particularly well suited for building partnerships within the region.

As we combat illicit trafficking in the region, the Coast Guard is at the tip of the spear conducting at-sea interdictions, including last month's recovery of 7.5 tons of cocaine from a semi-submersible off the coast of Honduras.

I salute the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve, and Coast Guard Auxiliary – thank you for your service!

Semper Paratus!

General Doug Fraser



Ray Sarracino

**DORAL, Fla. – U.S. Coast Guard Station Miami Beach Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Victor Ramirez next to a 25-foot-long small Coast Guard search-and-rescue boat on display at U.S. Southern Command Thursday, August 4th. The display commemorated the Coast Guard's 221st birthday.**

## Equal Employment Opportunity Notes - "Bullying is Not Leadership"

USAG-Miami EEO Office

The best-selling author about leadership, Dr. John C. Maxwell, said, "The definition of leadership is influence."

Maxwell, who wrote "Developing the Leader within You" and other outstanding books, explained that there are five successive levels of leadership:

(1) Position; (2) Permission; (3) Productivity; (4) People-development; and (5) Personhood.

At each level, the factor of influence is the essential key

for effectiveness. However, the degree of influence varies at each level.

In theory, leadership at the lowest level, specifically leadership by position, does not have the same degree of influence found at the highest level which is personhood. According to Maxwell, the higher the level of leadership, greater is the degree of influence.

Unfortunately in some mediocre or failing organizations, people have been promoted to positions of leadership, but have not benefited from the full

didactical dynamics of leadership development, particularly the underestimated power of influence. Thus, they then sometimes fall on their swords. Many make the common error of mistaking their "titular authority" for bonafide leadership. Because they simply possess the title as "The Boss," they falsely believe their subordinates must "willingly" follow them.

In conclusion, until a leader has established him/herself as truly having "influence," which is defined as the ability

to *motivate people to desire to achieve a goal*, their subordinates may do what they're told as a directive, but not truly follow the boss' lead with enthusiasm to do their absolute best, while simultaneously and ideally taking possession of the assigned task as their own.

Therefore, the lack of influence could lead to the alternative of being perceived as a dictator or "bully," which causes a plethora of problems and curtails productivity.

To talk about EEO issues, call (305)437-1826.

**Like, or Dislike, NOSOTROS?** Want to share Ideas? Feedback? Do your colleagues deserve notice? **Let us know!**

Call Public Affairs at 305.437.1213, or visit us on: Facebook: [southcomnosotros](#); Twitter: [SCNosotros](#) or E-mail: [southcomnosotros@gmail.com](mailto:southcomnosotros@gmail.com).

Submissions to NOSOTROS should be received by the Monday preceeding the publication date.



**SOUTHCOM Commander**  
Gen. Douglas Fraser, USAF

**Chief of Public Affairs**  
Col. Scott Malcom, USA

**Chief, Internal Information**  
Raymond Sarracino

**Editor**  
Arthur McQueen

NOSOTROS Office Address:

9301 NW 33rd St.  
Room A1423  
Doral, FL 33172

Phone: (305) 437-2685  
Web: <http://www.southcom.mil>

"NOSOTROS" is an authorized internal bi-weekly publication intended for: uniformed members of the Department of Defense, US Government civilians, contractors and liaisons working for U.S. Southern Command or in its Area of Responsibility and their dependents.

The contents of "NOSOTROS," including listings of public events or services, are not necessarily the official views of, or constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Army Garrison-Miami, Installation Management Command, U.S. Southern Command, DoD or the U.S. Government.

The content of this publication is solely the responsibility of the SOUTHCOM and USAG-Miami Public Affairs Offices.

## SCHOOL, from page 1

The ceremony began with the playing of the national anthems of both countries.

Airmen of the 555th and 820th RED HORSE Squadrons with Nellis AFB, Nev., stood in formation while Lt. Col. John Blackwell, New Horizons task force commander, addressed the audience which included the LTS IV school principal, Surinamese government representatives, and other New Horizons 2011 participants.

"All the New Horizons participants worked as team members who bonded together, like bricks and mortar, to make the LTS IV facility project a success," said Blackwell.

U.S. Ambassador John R. Nay detailed the long-standing impact of the LTS IV project on Suriname's vocational education system.

"This state of the art LTS IV building is a tangible, humanitarian and civic assistance program that will house the first multimedia center for information technology within the vocational educational system of Suriname," said Nay.

H.E. Lamure Latour, the Surinamese minister of defense, and H.E. Raymond Sapoen, Suriname's minister of education and community development, also remarked on the New Horizons partnership and the impact of the facility.

"On behalf of the government

and the people of Suriname, I must say that we appreciate this assistance," said Latour. "The construction of these three classrooms will surely contribute to a more suitable and satisfying education experience for both the students and teachers of LTS IV."

Outside the newly completed facility Nay, Latour, and Sapoen unveiled a plaque donated by the 820th airmen, cut a red ribbon and opened the school's door for ceremony guests and future students.

LTS IV is one of the many examples of engineering projects that have been recently completed during New Horizons 2011 to benefit the people of Suriname.

## Guantanamo Chief Named

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead announced Wednesday the following assignment:

Rear Adm. (lower half) David B. Woods will be assigned as commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo, U.S. Southern Command, Guantanamo, Cuba.

Woods is currently serving as director, Strategy and Policy Division, N51, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

## Army Announces Nine Month Deployment Period

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Army John McHugh announced a change in the length of future unit operational deployments from 12 months to nine months.

This change will be fully implemented by April 2012, and applies to division-level-and-below units. This policy will not affect personnel or units currently de-

ployed or deploying prior to Jan. 1, 2012.

The deployment period for high demand and low density units and individual deployers will remain one year.

The reduced deployment length will improve soldier and family quality of life while continuing to meet operational requirements and is an important step in

sustaining the all-volunteer-force.

This policy change is consistent with secretary of defense policies for utilization of the total force. Implementation of this change is based on the projected demand for Army forces, and is contingent on global security conditions and combatant commander requirements.

## Taking Your Photo

**Regine Mojica**  
SOUTHCOM Public Affairs

Official Photographs are a fact of military life. Here in U.S. Southern Command, many of the official ones are taken by Juan Chiari, US Army Garrison-Miami photographer.

Chiari is aided in his job by the Visual Information Ordering Site; an effective system for requesting graphics and setting up photo appointments with the Visual Information office and DA Photo Studio.

Appointments are required for command photos, special events, and group photography. However, VIOS does not differentiate between event

photography and the DA photo studio and may overlap appointments. Due to this, Chiari recommends to allow at least 7-10 working days to enable them to block off potential DA photo appointments that may arise, or vice versa.

An exception to the appointment process is given for Isolation Preparation photos. These are mandatory for SOUTHCOM personnel who are traveling abroad. ISOPREP photos serve for the identification of personnel database in the case that they are isolated or abducted aboard.

ISOPREP photos consist of a front view and profile view, with no expression, and may be

taken with or without uniform. Scheduling an appointment is not necessary; they are done on a walk-in basis from 1300-1500 on Thursdays at the DA Photo Studio, room 2079 in the Installation Services building.

VI takes care of, "Just about anything that's graphic," explains Chiari, "as far as production of posters for events, conferences, changes of command, VIP visits, and signs for the buildings." Graphics requests can also be made through VIOS. Chiari and VI specialist Tom Pattison advise customers to keep in mind that some jobs take longer than others, especially in graphics; turn around for brochures and posters are usually a week.

Chiari first became interested in photography at the age of 15

as a hobby.

Originally a pre-med student, he sought out a career as a photographer after taking a humanities course in black and white photography. He hopes to go back to the roots of black and white printing in order to "not lose the art of seeing in a digital world."

Chiari and Thomas Pattison, VI manager, encourage the use of Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) comment cards to improve the management to employee relationship.

"Visual information, graphics, and DA photo studios work hand-in-hand and we try to coordinate and accommodate as much as we can," Pattison said.

VIOS is available at: <http://www.vios.army.mil/>

# After Hours:

## Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities and events

### FAMILY AND MWR announcements may be found on the NIPR portal

To be placed on the Family and MWR e-mail list, send your name, phone number and e-mail address to [mwrcustomerservice@hq.southcom.mil](mailto:mwrcustomerservice@hq.southcom.mil).

Tickets offered by the Information, Tickets and Registration (ITR) Office, 305-437-1595 or 305-437-2400

**OKTOBERFEST!** Sept. 23, noon-3 p.m. at the Fitness Center, FREE food and entertainment.

**FAMILY PICNIC** at Miami Seaquarium, Sat, 24 Sept. Details TBA.

### ■ SPORTS EVENTS AVAILABLE

**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI** Vs Ohio State 9/17, \$95 Upper Level Sideline

**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI** Vs Virginia Tech 10/8, \$60 Upper Level Sideline

**MONSTER JAM** returns on August 20 @ 2pm, BANK ATLANTIC, Adult \$20/Child \$15. Includes: Pit Party Pass.

Limited Ticket Availability, For more information call the ITR office at: 305.437.1595/2400

■ **ZOO MIAMI**, (formerly Miami Metro Zoo) tickets now available. Adult: \$14, Child: \$10. Save up to 18 percent.

■ **WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORT**, Now through Sep 28, active and retired U.S. military personnel (including Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves) or their spouses can purchase: — Disney 4-Day Military Promotional Tickets with Park Hopper Option for \$135 each; Park Hopper and Water Parks Fun and More Options are \$162 each. Tickets expire Oct 1.

**SPORTS & FITNESS** 305.437.0123/0124

### ■ NEW CLASS SCHEDULE:

#### Monday

0600-0700 Tai-Chi with Sensei Montalban  
1130-1230 Spinning with Gabriella  
1230-1330 Yoga with Gabriella  
1700-1800 Spinning with Erin

#### Tuesday

1130-1230 Spin Lunch with Liz  
1200-1300 Power Yoga with Rae  
1645-1745 Zumba with Rosie

#### Wednesday

0600-0700 Tai-Chi with Sensei Montalban  
1130-1230 Spinning with Gabriella  
1200-1300 Tai-Chi with Sensei Montalban  
1230-1330 Yoga with Gabriella  
1630-1730 Mid-Week Restorative Yoga w/Rae  
1700-1800 Spinning with Erin

#### Thursday

1130-1230 Spin Lunch with Liz  
1200-1300 Power Yoga with Rae  
1645-1745 Zumba with Rosie

#### Friday

1130-1230 Spinning with Gabriella  
1230-1330 Yoga with Gabriella

Schedule is subject to change. \$3 per class or \$25 for 10 classes Please arrive on time for

class. First come — first served. Jill M. Hauser, Recreation Specialist, 305.437.1682/0123.

### ■ FITNESS CLASSES AT NO COST:

**Functional Fitness (outside)** — M-TH 6-7 a.m., 11:30-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.

**Functional Fitness (inside)** — M,W,F 6-8 a.m., and 3-6 p.m.hrs; T, TH 6-8 a.m. and 11:30-1 p.m., Call: Frank Same 305.437.1152, Sign-up at the Gym counter.

**Open Play Volleyball** — Tuesday and Thursday, 12-1 p.m.

**Open Play indoor soccer** — Monday and Wednesday, 12-1 p.m.

**Racquetball Challenge Court** — M-F 1130-1300 Court #1.

The Fitness Center is putting together a **basketball team** to represent USAG-Miami and USSOUTHCOM in the Miami Dade Police Department's 1st Annual **Battle of the Beaches Basketball Tournament** on Sept 23-25 at the Miami Springs Rec Center. There may be tryouts, depending on the number. If interested, please stop by the fitness center to register. POC: Angie Williams 305 437-0123 and Martin Galves 305 437-1695.

■ **BENCH PRESS COMPETITION** @ the USAG-M Family and MWR Fitness Center October 21. Deadline: September 30, Sign up located in fitness center lobby ext 0123/0124. POC Frank Same ext 1152.

### ■ MASSAGE THERAPIST

60 minute session — \$70,  
30 minute session — \$35.  
To schedule your appointment call Russell Protzman 305.951.1286 or 305.887.1719.

### ■ One — One Personal Training with Gabriella

60-minute session, \$60; 30-minute session, \$30 Sign-up at the Gym counter!

■ **OPEN PLAY VOLLEYBALL** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-1 p.m.

### ■ JOIN THE FAMILY AND MWR INDOOR WALKING GROUP.

Meets Mon., Wed. and Fri., at 11:30 a.m. on the indoor track. To join, contact Angie Williams, ext. 0123.

### ■ AMERICA'S HEROES GOLF PROGRAM

Miami-Dade Parks & Rec Dept. offers free golf at selected courses. For more information: <http://www.southcom.mil/usag-miami/sites/mwr/files/AmerHeroesGolfProgram.pdf>, Or contact Steve Lucius at: 305-829-8456, ext. 228, or [stevel@miamidade.gov](mailto:stevel@miamidade.gov).

### ■ FAMILY AND MWR EVENTS

**Estate Planning, What Everyone Needs to Know**, Thursday, 1 September 2011, 1 — 2 pm, USAG-Miami, Installation Services Center, 9301 NW 33rd Street, 2nd Floor, Suite E2005 (Family Support Center Conference Room)  
Learn about the estate planning process, features and benefits of wills, durable powers of attorney, healthcare proxy, and various types of trusts. Learn about the use of insurance in estate

planning and the tax benefits of gifting assets. Who should attend: Military, Civilian personnel, and Family Members. Seating is limited. Please reserve your seat by emailing Richard.Zimmerman@hq.southcom.mil or by telephone (305) 437-2645.

### Successful Parenting Lunch-n-Learn Series

sponsored by New Parent Support Program Tuesdays, 1200 — 1330, Family Support Center, Room 2005, Installation Services Center

August 23 — Language & Initiating Social/Emotional Relationships

**September: 6** — Enhancing Children's Play & Structuring Physical Environments

**September 20** — Developmentally Appropriate Parental Expectations, Fostering Self-discipline, & Implementing Consequences

POC: Joe Walker, [joe.walker@hq.southcom.mil](mailto:joe.walker@hq.southcom.mil), or 305.437.2734

### What: DORAL MUSIC PLAY GROUP

When: Every Tuesday from 10:00 — 11:30 am,  
Where: Installation Services Center, Fitness Center, Room F2003, Aerobics Studio 9301 NW 33rd Street, Doral, FL 33172-1202  
Who: Open to all Moms and Dads with Pre-school aged children  
Point of contact is: Joe Walker, (305) 437-2734, [joe.walker@hq.southcom.mil](mailto:joe.walker@hq.southcom.mil)

### COSTCO MEMBERSHIP Drive

Today from 1100 — 1400 at the ITR Office. Join as an Executive Member and apply for the True Earnings Card from Costco and American Express, and receive a \$20 Costco Cash Card. Or join at any membership level and receive a \$10 Costco Cash Card.

### Kids eat free at IKEA and IHOP in

**August** — [http://blogs.trb.com/features/consumer/shopping/blog/2011/08/kids\\_eat\\_free\\_at\\_ikea\\_and\\_ihop.html](http://blogs.trb.com/features/consumer/shopping/blog/2011/08/kids_eat_free_at_ikea_and_ihop.html)

BOOKS & BOOKS 265 Aragon Avenue | Coral Gables, Florida 33134 | 305.442.4408 Live Music in the Courtyard: Saturday, August 13, 8pm-midnight The Greatest Day Ever Game (\$21.99) — an exciting and original matching game that kids (ages 5 and older)... and parents... will love. Hang out with 20 amazing friends, indulge in 20 spectacular presents and cruise around the world's coolest neighborhood in this exciting and unforgettable matching game that brings to life The Greatest Day Ever for any kid. Free and open to the public. Sunday, August 14, 6pm

### Now a simple library card also can get families into great area attractions...

for free. <http://www.communitynewspapers.com/biscayne-bay/free-museum-passes-available-at-miami-dade-county-libraries/>

**ANTI-BULLYING WORKSHOP** set for Aug. 27 at Pinecrest library. For more info: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/08/03/2343983/anti-bullying-workshop-set-for.html#ixzz1U4SMYoDR>

# Leaders, Help Prevent Off-Duty Losses

**Brig. Gen. William T. Wolf**  
Commander, Combat Readiness/Safety Center

Leaders, our young leaders and Soldiers are doing superb work executing their missions both at home and in theaters overseas. Double-digit reductions in all on-duty accident categories show safety has become a top priority on the job, and we are poised to set another record low in on-duty fatalities at year's end. On-duty, our leaders are engaged while our Soldiers continue to look out for each other on every mission, at home station and in the AOR.

Through March, we were also seeing decreases in almost all off-duty fatality categories as well. However, since the end of April, approximately four Soldiers have died every week during their off-duty time, primarily in privately owned vehicle and privately owned motorcycle crashes.

For the fourth consecutive year, Soldier deaths in sedans, trucks, SUVs, vans and motorcycles have accounted for nearly two thirds of all accidental fatalities. Fatal cycle accidents are currently 50 percent above year-to-date totals for 2009 and 2010 and are approaching the record high set in 2008. Additionally, off duty fatal personal injuries like drowning, falls from buildings, and even private airplane accidents are also on the rise and already exceed numbers recorded during the previ-

ous two fiscal years. If this trend continues through the end of September, we could close the year with more than 190 Soldiers lost to accidents during fiscal 2011.

Indiscipline is the root cause of the vast majority of these fatalities. Simply put, Soldiers are killing themselves by driving too fast and/or under the influence of alcohol, neglecting to wear seat belts or personal protective equipment, mishandling firearms, failing to use basic safety equipment, and swimming/boating after drinking or in dangerous areas. I think you are all familiar with the many tools we have available on our website, <https://safety.army.mil>. The POV/POM Toolbox and "Off Duty, On Guard" interactive challenge as well as the Soldier Safety Kit presentation will prove useful for your Leaders in fighting risky behavior. I encourage you to explore our site and share this down your chain of command.

The tools are only as powerful as the people who use them. Our junior Leaders know who is at risk in their unit; they need to engage their Soldiers with the same dedication they have exhibited on-duty. These Leaders may need your help with establishing a garrison style of engagement with their Soldiers, so I would ask for you and your Senior Leaders to step in as necessary. Someone always knows when a Soldier is taking unnecessary risks and like we have seen in theater and at home

station during training, our Soldiers look out for each other and take care of one another well when they are on-duty. I need your help to ensure our Soldiers know to step in and make a difference with their battle buddy off-duty as well.

Thank you all for what you do every day for our Soldiers, Families and Civilians. Working together, we will turn the arrow down on these tragic accidents. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and always play it safe!

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG!

## Motorcycle Mentorship And Safety Fun Ride

**When: Saturday, Sept. 10, 0830-1400**

- Mentorship and Safety Briefings at the Installation Services Center parking lot.  
- Fun ride to Homestead VFW and barbeque lunch!  
**Cost: \$15 for riders, \$10 for passengers, includes t-shirts.**

Register at the ITR Office, Installation Services Center, or call (305)437-1595.

## Army Announces Civilian Reductions

The Army announced Aug. 4 it will reduce the size of its Civilian employee workforce by more than 8,700 people by September 30th, 2012.

These cuts are based on Department of Defense resource decisions as reflected in the Fiscal Year 2012 President's Budget and require a reduction of Army Civilian employees to comply with decreased funding levels.

The Army has identified more than 30 different commands and agencies affected by these reductions, with nearly 80 percent of the cuts taking

place within Installation Management Command, Army Material Command, Training and Doctrine Command, and HQ, Department of the Army.

In Miami, the U.S. Southern Command is facing no cuts, while the U.S. Army Garrison-Miami is preparing for a potential reduction.

"IMCOM has requested that all garrisons submit a 15 percent reduction for review," said Michael Norman, deputy garrison manager. "For us, that is 17 positions, and we have complied. But we have also submitted a reclama, and gone for-

ward with a request for growth due to our expanded mission in support of SOUTHCOM."

Now they await a final decision by the CG, IMCOM.

"We are in a very challenging fiscal environment and understand the impact these cuts will have on our Civilians and their Families" said Thomas R. Lamont, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. "Tough choices have to be made, but we'll make them in a thoughtful and deliberate manner that best supports the Army's mission."

Affected commands and agencies have 30 days to develop workforce reduction plans, identify organizational and personnel actions to be taken, and develop a timeline for each of the actions and expected reductions.

Commanders will be responsible for shaping their workforce within their allocated budget and may use all available options to achieve reduction objectives while mitigating adverse impact on the workforce. Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment may be used to reduce the number of personnel to meet mission objectives.

# AROUND THE AMERICAS

## DORAL



Ray Sarracino

## JAMAICA



Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jayme Pastorico

## COSTA RICA



Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kim Williams

**TOP RIGHT:** LA JULIETA, Costa Rica – The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) is moored alongside the cruise ship Dawn Princess from Australia in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, during Continuing Promise 2011. Continuing Promise is a five-month humanitarian assistance mission to the Caribbean, Central and South America.

**MIDDLE LEFT:** Nick Valerino of Service Painting puts a finish coat of paint on the exterior of the new AAFES facility on the SOUTHCOM campus. The facility is scheduled to begin serving customers Sept. 12.

**BOTTOM:** PORT ROYAL, Jamaica – Navy Diver 3rd Class Bryan Myers, assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2, uses a clamp to secure a steel plate before conducting welding operations with Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2. MDSU-2 is participating in Navy Diver-Southern Partnership Station, a multinational partnership engagement designed to increase interoperability and partner nation capability through diving operations.

# Tidd Takes Command of NAVSO, Fourth Fleet

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Moses McKelvey**  
USNAVSO/4th Fleet Public Affairs

MAYPORT, Fla. – U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet changed command during a ceremony at Naval Station Mayport Aug. 5.

Rear Adm. Vic Guillory, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet, was relieved by Rear Adm. Kurt Tidd during the ceremony, marking the end of a 34-year career.

The ceremony, presided over by Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser, Commander, U.S. Southern Command, served to showcase the numerous accomplishments of the command as a whole while paying tribute to those who have maintained the organization's success for more than 60 years.

Fraser said Guillory's presence at 4th Fleet served to further the already significant relationships with South American nations and increased operational capabilities of the U.S. armed forces.

"Over the past two years, Rear Adm. Guillory's outstanding and innovative leadership has strengthened our partnerships with naval forces throughout Latin America and the Caribbean and has helped USSOUTHCOM accomplish its mission," said Fraser.

Fraser named Guillory's numerous accomplishments during his address, citing the outgoing Admiral's ingenuity in orga-

nizing some of the Navy's highest profile operations and exercises.

"Guillory provided unparalleled support to our engagements with partner nation navies, overseeing numerous training exercises such as Southern Seas, Continuing Promise, Southern Partnership Station, UNITAS and PANAMAX," said Fraser. "In each of these he demonstrated a commitment to improving sharing and employing new naval technologies to help enhance interoperability."

Guillory, addressing the USNAVSO/4th Fleet staff attending the ceremony, said the accomplishments of the command remained a direct reflection of the individuals staffing its ranks.

"The opportunity and the privilege to serve alongside these terrific young men and women of USNAVSO and U.S. 4th Fleet has been the professional high-water mark of my career," said Guillory. "These young men and women are intelligent, loyal, committed to being part of something bigger than themselves, and simply the measure of all that is right about our nation and our values."

"They have collectively made coming to work every day special on many levels," added Guillory.

Guillory retired immediately following the change of command ceremony.

Guillory was succeeded as COMUSNAVSO/C4F by Tidd, who previously



TIDD

served as vice director, Operations, Joint Staff, at the Pentagon. Tidd told the more than 180 invited guests that it is a privilege to take command from a superb leader and pledged to keeping 4th Fleet ready in all respects for future challenges.

"Our focus today is to recognize, and to honor the 34 years of dedicated service to nation and Navy given by my Naval Academy classmate, shipmate and friend," said Tidd.

"I'd like to thank [Rear] Adm. Guillory and his bride Marquita for their warm welcome and gracious hospitality. You have made this transition extraordinarily easy," he said.

## Military Discounts

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have many opportunities to save money while shopping available to them, not always in plain sight. Many store chains offer discounts for anyone with a military ID, however many times it's not posted.

Many of the discount are at the manager's or franchise's discretion. The key tip from most military families is "ask the cashier/manager" whenever you are shopping and have your military or dependent ID card ready.

Other good advise is to check

at the store's customer service desk. The bottom line is that military members and families need to ask about a military discount wherever they shop, and don't be shy about it. There are great websites that tell where military personnel are finding the best deals. Some of these are below:

<http://www.military-money-matters.com/military-discounts.html>

<http://www.4militaryfamilies.com/militarydiscounts.htm>

<http://lifelessonsformilitarywife.blogspot.com/2007/08/military-discounts-anyone.html>

<http://www.armytimes.com/marketplace/discounts/>

There are exceptions, according to moneymatters.com.

Especially when you're dealing with hotels, the military rate may not be the lowest rate. Many hotels will set their military rates at the per diem rate for that location. You may find a AAA discount, AARP discount, or other special promotion rate that is less than the

military rate, especially on weekends. So don't just assume that the military rate is the lowest – ASK!

Sometimes, the hotel reservations clerk will tell you there's a lower rate available, but not always.

So just make it a habit to ask if the military rate is the lowest available rate, or if there's some other discounted rate for which you might qualify.

### Florida Sales Tax Holiday

Friday, Aug. 12 through Sunday, Aug. 14. No taxes on school supplies selling for \$15 or less and on clothes, shoes and certain accessories selling for \$75.

Details in: <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/tips/pdf/tip11a01-03.pdf>

# Path to a Passion

**Regine Mojica**  
SOUTHCOM Public Affairs

U.S. Southern Command's Deputy Chief of Programs and Services Division in Logistics Lt. Cmdr. Johnetta Thomas recently released her first publication of poems, *Path to a Passion*.

Thomas has been writing poetry since the age of 14. She collected her poems throughout the years and always had the desire to publish a book.

Her book includes a great range of poetry: Haikus, name poetry, ABC poetry, and free verse. It spans different topics

of her life from her childhood, family, school, and her naval career.

"You can give me a topic and I can visualize it and I kind of put that into words," she says. She recalls how she wrote a poem entitled *A Beautiful Day*; she was in Italy, sitting on a dock, waiting for a boat, and she automatically started writing, "I got all that just watching people work, and that one came to me." She says there is no particular thing that influences her to write, something will simply present itself or she will hear something that catches her attention.

Before she writes a poem, she doodles on a piece of paper and an idea branches off from there, "I have to hand write it first," she says, "I have never just sat down at the computer and started typing one." After writing her ideas by hand, sometimes the words altogether, she types it into the computer where she edits the text and arranges the stanzas.

Her book includes photographs from her childhood, nature photos, pictures she took,



Ray Sarracino

**Navy Lt. Cmdr. Johnetta Thomas, U.S. Southern Command, J4, Deputy Chief of Programs and Services, released her first publication of poems, *Path to a Passion*. Thomas has been writing poetry since her teenage years.**

as well as shots taken by her cousin.

*Path to a Passion* may be purchased on her website <http://www.e2poetry.com>.

## TASER, from page 1

U.S. Southern Command headquarters complex.

Following 90 minutes of safety, rule-of-engagement and operator training, getting stunned was a shocking end to the training session. "With the TASER, we now have a non-lethal option to deal with situations here," said DES Di-

rector Ed Weeks. "Before this, all that was available was a lethal response." Non-lethal weapons are designed and employed to incapacitate personnel while minimizing fatalities and permanent injury to personnel. Policy is to use only that level



GERTZ

of force reasonably necessary to control or otherwise subdue violent or potentially violent individuals, in appropriate circumstances. A TASER is an Electronic Control Device, designed to disrupt a subject's central nervous system by deploying electrical en-

ergy sufficient to cause uncontrolled muscle contractions and override an individual's voluntary motor responses. Every use of the device is reported and logged.

The bottom line for Weeks? Improved confidence for his staff and safety for the headquarters. "The department's training program is constantly improving."

# Free FICO Scores Can Yield Profound Results

**Richard Zimmelman**  
USAG-M Financial Readiness

There are great successes for service members and families accessing free credit scores and reports at the U.S. Army Garrison-Miami, Family Support Center Financial Readiness Office.

Accessing credit scores is quick and free and using consumer laws to fix inaccuracies in credit reports is a straightforward and relatively simple process.

In several cases, our office has seen client's credit scores increase by more than 100 points in less than 60 days.

Credit scores are affected by several different factors and personal habits.

The greatest contributor to credit score is payment history, accounting for 35 percent of credit score. Your most recent 6

months of credit history is the most heavily weighted part of credit history.

So the most effective method to increase credit score in the short term is to pay credit bills on time now and for the next 6 months.

If you can't pay a bill on time, call the creditor and ask for a grace period. Many times, creditors will grant a grace period without noting the account as paid late.

The second greatest contributor to credit score is credit utilization rate. Ideally, consumers will have less than 30 percent charged of their available credit limit.

Most consumers can manage this by simply telephoning their creditor(s) and asking them to raise their credit limit so their balance is less than 30 percent of the credit limit. If the creditor tells you they have to pull a credit report in order to make the

decision, then tell them not to.

Continue making payments on time; and call back in six months to again request the credit limit increase. Pulling a credit report will lower your credit score.

Other contributors to credit score include length of credit history, inquiries, and types of credit accounts. Any discussion of credit management is incomplete without mentioning personal budgeting. Managing personal budgets helps us ensure we're not tempted to use credit as a substitute for income.

The good news is that credit reports and credit scores are manageable even for consumers who've experienced defaults, foreclosure or bankruptcy.

For more information or to set up an appointment, E-mail [Richard.Zimmelman@hq.southcom.mil](mailto:Richard.Zimmelman@hq.southcom.mil); or call (305) 437-2645.